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① A food quality improving agent.

② Disclosed is a food quality improving agent containing PL or vital gluten as an essential ingredient and one or more adjuvants selected from phospholipase A, gum, vital gluten wherein the bound monoacyl glycerophospholipid content of the bound phospholipid is less than 30 mol%, ascorbic acid, monoglyceride, soybean lecithin, whey protein, soybean protein, sodium caseinate, citric acid, succinic acid,  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\beta$ -amylase.

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A FOOD QUALITY IMPROVING AGENT

The present invention relates to a food quality  
5 improving agent containing a specified vital gluten and  
adjuvants.

It is well-known that the production of high  
quality bread greatly depends on the amount and quality  
of gluten contained in flour.

10 The qualities of flour commercially available in  
the market are different according to brands or makers and  
also seasonal or production year's change. In the bread  
production field, dough improving agents prepared by  
mixing emulsifiers, enzymes, vital gluten and the like  
15 are widely used in order to obtain good quality bread when  
such flour as the main raw material is used.

The present invention provides a food quality  
20 improving agent containing (A) a vital gluten (hereinafter  
referred to as PL gluten) having a bound phospholipid con-  
tent of 2% (w/w) or more and a bound monoacyl glycerophos-  
pholipid content in the bound phospholipid of more than  
30 mol% and less than 50 mol% or PL-gluten having a bound  
25 phospholipid content of 0.5% (w/w) or more and a bound  
monoacyl glycerophospholipid content in the bound phos-  
pholipid of 50 mol% or more and (B) at least one member  
selected from the group consisting of phospholipase A,

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gum, vital gluten wherein the bound monoacyl glycerophospholipid content in the bound phospholipid is less than 30 mol% (commercially available gluten), monoglyceride, soybean lecithin, whey protein, soybean protein, sodium caseinate, citric acid, succinic acid,  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\beta$ -amylase.

The food quality improving agent has an effect of decreasing the mechanical damage of dough and improving the quality (texture, specific volume, staling degree, etc.) of the final product.

The PL gluten is a vital gluten having a bound phospholipid content of 2% (w/w) or more and a bound monoacyl glycerophospholipid content in the bound phospholipid of more than 30 mol% and less than 50 mol% or a vital gluten having a bound phospholipid content of 0.5% (w/w) or more and a bound monoacyl glycerophospholipid content in the bound phospholipid of 50 mol% or more. A detailed description concerning the PL gluten is given in European Publication No. 0134658/85 published on March 20, 1985.

Methods for producing PL gluten are described hereinafter:

PL gluten is obtained by adding phospholipase A (hereinafter referred to as PL-A) to flour (wheat flour) in the ratio of  $10^2 - 10^4$  units per 1 kg of flour, further adding water thereto and kneading to form a mixture by a

conventional method, and then washing the kneaded mixture with water to remove starch and the like. Also, PL gluten is obtained by treating a mixture prepared by adding phospholipid to flour and PL-A in the same way as described  
5 above, or by converting phospholipid into phospholipid having a high content of monoacyl glycerophospholipid with PL-A and adding the phospholipid in the PL gluten-producing process to bind the phospholipid to gluten protein.

Phospholipid is added in an amount of 0.1 - 10%  
10 based on flour.

As the gums, xanthan gum, locust bean gum, etc. can be used.

The amount of each adjuvant in the food quality improving agent based on 100 parts of PL gluten is as  
15 follows:

PL-A (1000 u/g): 0.01 - 5 parts; gum: 0.5 - 5 parts; vital gluten wherein the bound monoacyl glycerophospholipid content in the bound phospholipid is less than 30 mol% (commercially available gluten): 5 - 70 parts;  
20 ascorbic acid: 0.1 - 0.5 parts; monoglyceride or soybean lecithin: 0.1 - 10 parts; whey protein or soybean protein: 1 - 30 parts; sodium caseinate, citric acid, succinic acid,  $\alpha$ -amylase (10000 u/g) or  $\beta$ -amylase (10000 u/g): 0.1 - 1 part.

25 If necessary, the following adjuvants may also be supplemented. L-lysine hydrochloride: 0.1 - 10 parts; L-proline: 0.1 - 10 parts, and sodium lactate: 0.5 - 10 parts.

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Among adjuvants mentioned above, for example,  
when PL-A is used in an amount of less than 0.01 part,  
the effect by PL-A is not achieved and when PL-A is used  
in an amount of 5 parts or more, PL-A provides a stench  
5 to a product since PL-A has a peculiar smell originated  
from pancreatin. When gum is used in an amount of less  
than 0.5 parts, the effect of decreasing the mechanical  
damage of dough is almost never observed and when gum is  
used in an amount of 5 parts or more, for example, in case  
10 of bean jam bread, the shape is not good. When ascorbic  
acid is used in an amount of less than 0.1 part, the  
effect of decreasing the mechanical damage of dough is  
almost never observed and specific volume of a product  
becomes small and when ascorbic acid is used in an amount  
15 of 0.5 parts or more, elasticity of dough becomes bad,  
further specific volume of product becomes small and inner  
state of a product becomes bad. When amylase is used in  
an amount of less than 0.1 part, softness and relative  
staleness of a product become bad and when amylase is  
20 used in an amount of 1 part or more, non-stickiness and  
elasticity of dough become bad.

In the production of bread, doughnuts, noodles,  
and Chinese dumplings such as won ton and gyoza, the  
amount of the food quality improving agent of the present  
25 invention to be added is 0.1 - 10%, preferably, 0.5 - 5%,  
based on the amount of flour included in the raw materials.

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The addition of the food quality improving agent to the raw materials improves the workability (especially, elasticity) of the dough and also the quality of the final product (texture, specific volume, and staling degree).

5 Certain specific embodiments of the invention are illustrated by the following representative examples.

Example 1

In this example, a food quality improving agent-1  
10 was obtained by uniformly mixing 100 kg of PL gluten (obtained in Reference Example 1 and the same shall apply hereinafter) and 0.5 kg of PL-A (500,000U) by a blender.

In a flour milling plant, the food quality  
15 improving agent-1 was added to ordinary flour (crude protein 8.5%, ash 0.40%) obtained by grinding domestic wheat in an amount of 1 % based on the flour to obtain quality-improved flour-1.

Then raw noodles containing much water were prepared under the following composition and production  
20 condition and boiled in boiling water for 13 minutes.

The result of evaluation thereof is shown in Table 1.

Composition of Raw Noodles Containing Much Water:

25	Quality-improved flour-1	10000 g
	Solution of table salt (Baume degree 10°)	4300 g

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Production Condition:

	Kneading by a kneader	at low speed, 30 min.
	Floor time	30 min.
	Dividing, rounding	2 kg ball
5	Bench time	60 min.
	Rolled and a cutter	3 m/m thick, edge No. 12 (for noodles)

As control, noodles were obtained in the same manner as described above except using ordinary flour (crude protein 9.0%, ash 0.45%) instead of the quality improved flour-1.

The result of evaluation is shown in Table 1.

Table 1

15		<u>Rate of loss in elution</u>	<u>Texture</u>	<u>Taste</u>	<u>Note</u>
	Noodles made of quality-improved flour-1	9.0%	5	4	Soft and elastic
	Control	9.5%	4	4	Ordinary
20	Evaluation: 5 very good, 4 good				

As is apparent from Table 1, noodles according to the present invention have the soft and elastic texture when compared with the control to show the improvement of quality.

## Dough Composition:

	Quality-improved flour-2	3000 g
	Sugar	500 g
	Table salt	200 g
5	Shortening	500 g
	Water	2500 cc

Control 1

Bread was obtained in the same manner as described above except using the flour prepared by adding 2 % of commercially available Vital Gluten (Canada, IGP gluten) to the noodle flour (Semi-hard flour), instead of the quality-improved flour-2. The result of evaluation is shown in Table 2.

15

Control 2

Bread was obtained in the same manner as described above except using the flour prepared by adding 2 % of PL gluten to the noodle flour (Semi-hard flour) instead of the quality-improved flour-2. The result of evaluation is shown in Table 2.

Control 3

Bread was obtained in the same manner as described above except using the noodle flour (Semi-hard flour) instead of the quality-improved flour-2. The result of evaluation is shown in Table 2.



Control 4

Bread was obtained in the same manner as described above except using the noodle flour (Semi-hard flour) instead of the quality-improved flour-2. The result of evaluation is shown in Table 2.

Table 2

Item	Bread made of quality-improved flour-2	Control			
		1	2	3	4
Dough Physical Properties					
Elasticity	4	5	4	4	2
Extensibility	5	4	5	4	2
Non-stickiness	4	4	4	3	2
Moldability	5	2	4	4	2
Product Qualities					
Specific volume	5.65	5.41	5.50	5.13	5.02
Appearance	5	4	4	3	2
Inner state	4	3	4	3	2
Texture	5	3	4	3	2
Relative staleness	70	89	81	90	100

\* Relative staleness: Measured by using Baker's compressimeter and each value was determined by considering that of control 4 as 100.

Evaluation mark  
5: very good  
4: good  
3: ordinary

2: slightly poor  
(The following tables have the same definition as to the above evaluation marks)

5           The product of the present invention was superior to controls 1 - 4 in respect of the physical properties of dough and product qualities.

Example 3

10           In this example, a food quality improving agent-3 was obtained by uniformly mixing 100 kg of PL gluten, 1 kg of PL-A (1,000,000 u) and 1 kg of  $\beta$ -amylase (10,000,000 u) by a blender.

15           In a flour milling plant, the food quality improving agent-3 was added to graham flour (coarse powder) in an amount of 5 % based on the flour to obtain a quality-improved graham flour-3.

20           Then, graham bread was obtained under the following composition and production condition. The result of evaluation is shown in Table 3.

Sponge Composition:

	Quality-improved graham flour-3	6000 g
	Yeast	250 g
	Yeast food	15 g
25	Glycerol fatty acid ester	20 g
	Calcium stearyl lactilate	30 g
	Water	4000 cc

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Dough Composition:

	High gluten first flour	4000 g
	Sugar	800 g
	Table salt	230 g
5	Shortening	500 g
	Skim milk	300 g
	Malt extract	30 g
	Water	2000 cc

Production Condition:

10	Sponge fermentation	23 - 24°C, 4 hr.
	Floor time	20 min.
	Bench time	18 min.
	Proofing	40°C, 50 min.
	Baking	200°C, 25 min.

15

As control 1, graham bread was obtained in the same manner as described above except using the graham flour prepared by adding 5 % of commercially available Vital Gluten (Canada 1GP gluten) to the graham flour, instead of the quality-improved graham flour-3.

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As control 2, graham bread was obtained in the same manner as described above except using the graham flour instead of the quality-improved graham flour-3.

The result of evaluation is shown in Table 3.

25

Table 3

	<u>Specific volume</u>	<u>Appearance</u>	<u>Inner state</u>	<u>Texture</u>	<u>Note</u>
5 Bread made of the quality- improved graham flour-3	4.50	5	5	5	Texture is soft
Control 1	4.40	5	4	4	Texture is slightly soft
Control 2	4.30	3	3	2	Not voluminous

10

As is apparent from Table 3, the graham bread obtained in the present invention is superior to controls 1 and 2 in respect of volume, inner state and texture.

Example 4

15

In this example, dough was produced by the method of using sponge and dough method containing sugar, and bean jam was wrapped with the dough by Rheone 207 type incrusting machine. The result is shown in Table 4.

20 Composition:

Sponge

	Flour	2100 g (70%)
	Sugar	120 (4)
	Yeast food	3 (0.1)
25	Yeast	105 (3.5)
	Improving agent A*	0 or 90 (0 or 3)
	Water	1170 or 1290 (39 or 43)

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Dough

	Flour	900 g (30%)
	Sugar	630 (21)
	Table salt	24 (0.8)
5	Whole eggs	240 (8)
	Shortening	180 (6)
	Water	210 (7)

\* Composition of food quality improving agent A

		(1)	(2)	(3)
10	PL gluten	75%	75%	60%
	Commercially available gluten	22.8	22.8	27.8
	Ascorbic acid	0.2	0.2	0.2
	Xanthan gum	1.5	2	2
	Locust bean gum	0.5	0	0

15 Process:

	Sponge mixing temperature	25°C
	Fermentation	27°C, 150 min.
	Dough mixing temperature	28°C
	Floor time	45 min.
20	Punching	45 sec. (Rheone punch machine)
	Wrapping bean jam by Rheone 207 type incrusting machine	
	Proofing	38°C, RH 85%, 50 min.
	Baking	210°C, 8 min.

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On the contrary, the addition of the commercially available gluten only brought about the less effect.

Example 5

5 In this example, bean jam yeast doughnuts were prepared by the straight method using Rheone 207 type incrusting machine. The result is shown in Table 5.

Composition:

10	Flour	3000 g (100%)
	Sugar	390 ( 13)
	Table salt	27 (0.9)
	Shortening	240 (8)
	Skim milk	60 (2)
15	Yeast food	3.6 (0.12)
	Baking powder	75 (2.5)
	Quality improving agent B *	0 or 60 (0 or 2)

\* Composition of quality improving agent B

	B-(1)	B-(2)	B-(3)
20 PL gluten	75%	60%	60%
Commercially available gluten	22.8	27.8	37.5
Ascorbic acid	0.2	0.2	0.2
Xanthan gum	2	2	2
Soybean protein	0	10	0
β-amylase	0	0	0.3

25

Table 5

Test group	Additives	State of dough *1 when wrapping bean jam	Specific volume	Oil-absorbing rate (%) *2
5	I Flour only	-	1.92	10.8
	II Quality improving agent B-(1)	+	2.36	7.5
	III " B-(2)	++	2.38	6.8
	IV " B-(3)	+	2.41	7.7
	V PL gluten	±	2.20	8.0
10	VI Commercially available gluten	±	2.05	7.7

\*1 - : poor, ± : ordinary, + : good, ++ : very good

\*2 Oil-absorbing rate:

$$\frac{\text{Weight after fried} - \text{Weight before fried}}{\text{Weight before fried}} \times 100$$

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As is apparent from Table 5, the quality improving agent containing PL gluten (test groups II - IV) improved not only the state of dough and the volume of product but also the oil-absorbing rate which is quite important for the good quality of doughnuts in the case of bean jam doughnuts as well as in the case of bean jam bread (Table 4).

In this regard, the single use of the commercially available gluten (test group VI) showed the insufficient effect of improving the specific volume and the oil-absorbing rate.

Reference Example 1

In this Reference Example, to 400 ml of a 15% (w/w) aqueous dispersion of purified soybean lecithin (SLP-White, product of True Lecithin Co., Ltd.) was added calcium chloride to a concentration of 20 mM. Further, 1200 mg (504 units) of PL-A was added thereto, and the mixture was allowed to react at pH 9.0 at 55°C for 2 hours to obtain a modified phospholipid dispersion wherein the content of monoacyl glycerophospholipid is 75 mol%.

Then, 100 ml of the modified phospholipid dispersion and 1000 g of commercially available vital gluten (Emasoft Ex-100, product of Riken Vitamin Co., Ltd.) were mixed with stirring and the mixture was lyophilized and pulverized into a powdery gluten.

Further, to the powdery gluten was added 100 ml of the modified phospholipid dispersion, and mixed with stirring. The mixture was lyophilized and pulverized into a powdery gluten. The above-mentioned procedure where to the resultant powdery gluten was added 100 ml of the modified phospholipid dispersion and powdered through lyophilization was repeated further two times. Totally, 400 ml of the modified phospholipid was added.

The bound phospholipid content of the vital gluten thus obtained was 3.5% (w/w) and the bound monoacyl glycerophospholipid content was 68 mol%.



CLAIMS

1. A food improving agent comprising as an essential ingredient vital gluten, said vital gluten having either i) a bound phospholipid content of 2% (w/w) or more and a bound monoacyl glycerophospholipid content in the bound phospholipid of more than 30 mol% and less than 50 mol% or ii) a bound phospholipid content of 0.5% (w/w) or more and a bound monoacyl glycerophospholipid content in the bound phospholipid of 50 mol% or more, characterised in that the improving agent additionally contains, in admixture with said vital gluten, one or more of the following: phospholipase A, gum, vital gluten wherein the bound monoacyl glycerophospholipid content of the bound phospholipid is less than 30 mol%, ascorbic acid, monoglyceride, soybean lecithin, whey protein, soybean protein, sodium caseinate, citric acid, succinic acid,  $\alpha$ -amylase or  $\beta$ -amylase.
2. A food improving agent according to claim 1, characterised in that it contains one or more of said additives in the following amounts, said amounts being expressed as parts by weight per hundred parts of said vital gluten:
- |    |  |   |           |
|----|--|---|-----------|
| 20 | phospholipase-A (1000 u/g)                                 | : | 0.01 - 5  |
|    | vital gluten, bound phospholipid content less than 30 mol% | : | 5 - 70    |
|    | ascorbic acid  | : | 0.1 - 0.5 |
|    | gum  | : | 0.5 - 5   |
| 25 | monoglyceride  | : | 0.1 - 10  |
|    | soybean lecithin   | : | 0.1 - 10  |
|    | whey protein   | : | 1 - 30    |
|    | soybean protein  | : | 1 - 30    |
|    | sodium caseinate   | : | 0.1 - 1   |
| 30 | citric acid  | : | 0.1 - 1   |
|    | succinic acid  | : | 0.1 - 1   |
|    | $\alpha$ -amylase (10000 u/g)                              | : | 0.1 - 1   |
|    | or $\beta$ -amylase (10000 u/g)                            | : | 0.1 - 1   |
3. A food improving agent according to claim 1 or 2, which contains as said additive, or one of said additives, xanthan gum or locust bean gum.

4. A food improving agent according to claim 1, 2 or 3, additionally containing, per 100 parts by weight of said vital gluten;
- |                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| L-lysine hydrochloride | 0.1 - 10 parts |
| L-proline              | 0.1 - 10 parts |
- 5 and/or sodium lactate 0.5 - 10 parts
5. A flour dough, or a baked product thereof, containing flour to which has been added a vital-gluten containing improving agent, characterised in that the improving agent is an agent as claimed in any one of claims 1-4.
- 10 6. A flour dough, or baked product, according to claim 5, characterised in that the improving agent is present in an amount of from 0.1 to 10%, based on the weight of the flour used to make the dough.
- 15 7. A flour dough, or baked product, according to claim 6, characterised in that the amount of improving agent is from 0.5 to 5%, based on the weight of the flour used to make the dough.